GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1897
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2015
Helicopter Crashes
Antony Shri Anto

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any record regarding the number of Pawan Hans helicopter crashes occurred in the country during each of the last three years and the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there are no whereabouts of a Pawan Hans Pilot after a helicopter crash occurred in the oil and gas field of ONGC in the Mumbai offshore;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by the Government to trace him; and

(e) whether the Government is concerned about the frequent crashes of the Pawan Hans helicopters in the country and if so, the remedial steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION
(Dr Mahesh Sharma)

(a) & (b) Five accidents of helicopters belonging to M/s Pawan Hans Ltd. have taken place in the country during the years 2012 to 2015 (till November 2015). Details of the accidents are placed as annexure.

(c) & (d) In the helicopter accident on 4.11.2015 in the ONGC offshore gas field, 02 most experienced pilot had been flying the helicopter. While body of Capt. T.K. Guha was recovered on 9.11.2015, the body of Capt. E. Samuel could not be traced inspite of 24x7 search & rescue operations for 14 days by Indian Navy, Indian Coast Guard, ONGC and Pawan Hans.Based on circumstantial evidence, Capt. E. Samuel has been presumed to be dead by the State Police.

(e) Yes Madam. The pilots of Pawan Hans are mostly taken from Defence Forces and they are trained as per Directorate General of Civil Aviation Rules. For offshore helicopter operations Pawan Hans is also complying with Aviation Standard-4 (AS-4) requirements of ONGC. The Pilots have also been given training on Simulator at France, Russia, HATSOFF at Bangalore. The Instrument Rating of Pilots is also carried out by Directorate General of Civil Aviation(DGCA) approved examiners. Periodic Safety Audit of the bases is conducted as per DGCA Guidelines. Further, the following remedial measures have been taken to improve
safety by Pawan Hans Ltd. are as under:-

i) Pawan Hans has undertaken Safety Initiatives by implementing Safety Management System (SMS) for its operations and maintenance activities as per DGCA guidelines and has already implemented two phases of SMS out of four.

ii) Pawan Hans has taken steps to introduce Flight Operations Quality Assurance(FOQA) system in its operations to analyze and monitor (Cockpit Voice Recorder(CVR) and Flight Data Recorder(FDR) data of helicopters.

iii) Safety Policy of the company has also been revised to include Safety as a core activity with "Zero Tolerance in Safety" as Company Policy.

iv) Third Party Safety Audit has been introduced in the Company.

v) Pawan Hans has decided to phase out more than 28 years old Dauphin N helicopters fleet.